

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 AID-05 EB-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05

/099 W

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R 061605Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3807

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T ALGIERS 0310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XJ, AO, MR, AG

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: SOVIET LINE

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 0283

1. SOVIET APPROACH REPORTED REFTEL APPEARS IDENTICAL
IN SUBSTANCE TO SOVIET PRESENTATION TO US HERE.
MEMCONS BEING POUCHED, BUT SINCE SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE
PUSHING LINE ELSEWHERE IN AREA, WE CABLING FOLLOWING
SUMMARY OF LINE SOVIETS USING WITH US HERE.

2. IN TWO RECENT CHARGE CONVERSATIONS WITH SOVIET
MINISTER-COUNSELOR SPARTAK ZYKOV, ZYKOV HAS EACH TIME
PUSHED LINE THAT US SHOULD RECOGNIZE MPLA "BEFORE IT

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IS TOO LATE".

3. HE STATED THAT HE HAS OBSERVED US POLICY IN AFRICA FOR MANY YEARS, WAS AWARE OF GREAT AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE US HAD PROVIDED AFRICA, BUT HAS NOTED THAT WE NEVER RECEIVED POLITICAL BENEFITS COMMENSURATE WITH OUR AID EFFORTS. REASON, FOR THIS, HE SAID, WAS THAT WE WERE "SLOW" TO RECOGNIZE IRREVERSIBLE POLITICAL TRENDS. IN ANGOLA, FOR INSTANCE, US WAS REFUSING TO ACCEPT OR RECOGNIZE INEVITABLE VICTORY OF PEOPLE AS REPRESENTED BY MPLA.

4. HIS RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHY, IF MPLA GENUINELY REPRESENTED PEOPLE AND VICTORY WAS SO INEVITABLE, WERE THERE SO MANY ANTONOV'S STOPPING OFF AT ALGIERS AIRPORT EN ROUTE ANGOLA, WAS THAT SOVIETS SIMPLY HELPING GENUINE POPULAR MOVEMENT RESIST SOUTH AFRICAN AND ZAIRIAN AGGRESSION.

5. HIS RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHY SOVIETS JEOPARDIZING DETENTE OVER ANGOLA, CONTAINED FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. DETENTE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR BOTH US AND SOVIETS GIVEN MUTUAL CAPABILITY TO DESTROY EACH OTHER;

B. DETENTE DID NOT MEAN THAT EITHER US OR SOVIETS WOULD GIVE UP THEIR BASIC PRINCIPLES.

C. FOR SOVIETS, PRINCIPLE OF SUPPORT FOR MOVEMENTS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION BASIC PRINCIPLE; THEREFORE THEY HAD TO SUPPORT MPLA AGAINST UNITA AND FNLA BECAUSE LATTER TWO GROUPS SUPPORTED BY FOREIGN IMPERIALISTS AND REPRESENTED EXPLOITING CLASSES IN ANGOLA.

D. SOVIETS RECOGNIZED THAT US BASIC PRINCIPLE REQUIRED IT TO PROTECT ITS SOURCES OF RAW MATERIALS AND THEREFORE THEY UNDERSTOOD WHY WE WISHED INTERVENE IN ANGOLA.

E. HOWEVER, NOW THAT VICTORY OF MPLA CLEARLY
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INEVITABLE, WE SHOULD ACCEPT MPLA AS LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE; IF WE MOVED TO DO SO NOW WE COULD STILL PROTECT OUR INTERESTS IN RAW MATERIALS OF ANGOLA.

6. I RESPONDED THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE BUT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO SEE HOW MPLA COULD BE REGARDED AS

THIS REPRESENTATIVE WHEN THERE WERE SOVIET EQUIPMENT AND ADVISORS AND CUBAN TROOPS IMPOSING IT ON ANGOLA. WHEN WE BEGAN TO SEE ANTONOV'S LANDING AT ALGIERS AIRPORT BRINGING SOVIET ADVISORS AND EQUIPMENT OUT OF ANGOLA, WE PERHAPS COULD THEN BEGIN TO SEE WHO AND WHAT REPRESENTED ANGOLAN PEOPLE.

7. HE RESPONDED THAT "SEE, AS I TOLD YOU, YOU AMERICANS ARE ALWAYS REACTING TOO LATE TO POLITICAL REALITIES IN AFRICA. THAT IS WHY YOU ALWAYS LOSE."

8. COMMENT: SINCE ALGERIANS ALREADY WHOLEHEARTEDLY ON BOARD SOVIET/MPLA WAGON, ZYKOV, WHO SAID HE HAS BEEN FOLLOWING ANGOLAN EVENTS FOR THREE YEARS, AND AFRICAN EVENTS FOR FOURTEEN, MAY SIMPLY HAVE BEEN ACHING TO PRESENT SOVIET THESIS TO SOME ANTAGONIST. LYNE

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